shore investigations for locating oil and gas reserves;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) There is no such proposal with this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Studies of deltaic sediments to locate hydrocarbons in the ancient sedimentary rocks are carried out by the K. D. Malaviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration along with other studies.

Order placed by ONGC to M/s. P. J. Pipes & Vessels

2943. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on February 8, 1993, ONGC have placed an order No. DZ 8 DB 0228 on M/s. P. J. Pipes & Vessels (P) Limited for Rs. 6 crores;

(b) if so, what are the details of the order;

(c) what is the quantity and value of the order, when it was signed by the firm and by which date, it is likely to be fully completed;

(d) what are the details of pending ONGC orders yet to be completed by the firm as on 30th June, 1993;

(e) whether Government have considered the previous track record of the firm before placing a fresh order; and

(f) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) ONGC had placed an order on M/s. P. J. Pipes & Vessels Ltd. on 8-2-93 for supply for 83,700 mtrs. of 5½" casing pipes at a value of about Rs. 6 crores. The delivery is scheduled to be completed by 20-12-93.

(d) As on 30-6-93 ten orders for supply of casing pipes were pending for execution by this firm. In addition part supplies against the order for supply of line pipes, risers and bends for SHG Process Complex for which an order was placed on a Consortium of M/s. P. J. Pipes & Vessels Ltd. and SAW Pipes Ltd. was also pending.

(e) and (f) ONGC had considered the past performance of the firm before fresh order was placed on them on 8-2-93.

Poor Response to Oil Exploration

2944. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Financial Express dated 30-7-93 captioned 'Oil expectation bids evoke poor response' in the fifth round of bidding which was far below the expectations as compared to the Fourth Round of bidding in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that major impediments in getting foreign participation was the inadequate data availability/non-professional and non-business like attitude of the Government; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take to rectify the present instable *situation/evoke positive response from* MNCs in future in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 15 bids have been received for 10 blocks under the Fifth Round of bidding. This is a satisfactory response considering the current climate for investment in exploration activities in the international market.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Running Vehicles on LPG

2945. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether scooters, cars and buses can be successfully run on LPG;

(b) if so, whether Government have also examined any such proposal, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to grant permission to such proposals on mass scale; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) to (d) LPG can be used in automobiles in replacement of motor spirit. However, the use of LPG as fuel in transport sector is not being encouraged, as its indigenous production is not adequate even to meet the demand of the household consumers and LPG is now being imported to meet a part of the domestic demand.

Paraffin Wax Control

2946. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether control on Paraffin Wax Type-III has been removed and even its export has been allowed ;

(b) if so, how Delhi Administration is still treating this item under the Paraffin Wax Control Order and not allowing the small scale industries to sell their production causing closer for all the wax producing units;

(c) what action Government are taking to stop this action of Delhi Administration of forcing the small scale paraffin wax manufacturing units to obtain dealership licence under the control order when it stands as a decontrolled item ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) The Paraffin Wax (Supply, Distribution and Price Fixation) Order, 1972 is still in vogue. There is no ban on export of Paraffin Wax Type-III.

(b) and (c) Action of Delhi Administration is in line with the provisions of the existing Order.

वितरकों द्वारा रसोई गैस उपभोक्ताओं का शोषण

2947. **श्री कामेश्वर पासवान** : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रसोई गैस वितरकों द्वारा रसोई गैस उपभोक्ताओं के शोषण की घटनाएं दिनों दिन बढ़ती जा रही हैं जिसमें मुख्यत: नए कनेक्शनधारियों को बाजार मूल्य से अधिक मूल्य पर हॉट प्लेट बेचना शामिल है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि उपभोक्ता संरक्षण मंच के समक्ष ऐसे मामलों की शिकायत दर्ज नहीं की जा सकती;

(ग) यदि भाग (क) और (ख) का उत्तर हां है तो उन अधिकारियों का ब्यौरा क्या है जहां दूर दराज के क्षेत्रों में छोटे छोटे शहरों के रसोई गैस उपभोक्ता रसोई गैस वितरकों द्वारा अधिक मूल्य पर हॉट प्लेट बेचे जाने के विरूद्ध शीघ्र निपटारा करने हेतु शिकायत कर सके;

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि एम० आर० टी० पी० का कार्यालय प्रत्येक जिला मुख्यालय में स्थित नहीं होता है; और

(ङ) बिहार में एम० आर० टी० पी० के कार्यालय कहां-कहां कार्यरत है और उनमें शिकायत दर्ज कराने की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा) : (क) से (ग) डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों द्वारा हॉट प्लेट की जबरन बिक्री की जाने संबंधी कतिपय शिकायतें तेल कंपनियों द्वारा रिपोर्ट की गई हैं । ऐसी शिकायतें संबंधित "जिला उपभोक्ता सुरक्षा फोरम" के यहां दर्ज की जा सकती हैं ।

(घ) और (ङ) एम० आर० टी० पी० आयोग का कार्यालय केवल नई दिल्ली में ही स्थित है और किसी अन्य राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र में इसका कोई कार्यालय नहीं है । तथापि, किसी भी राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र का एल० पी० जी का उपभोक्ता नई दिल्ली स्थित एम० आर० टी० पी० आयोग के कार्यालय को सूचित करके जम्मू एवं कश्मीर को छोड़कर भारत के किसी भी भाग में एल० पी०जी० के डीलरों द्वारा अपनायी गयी किसी अनुचित अथवा प्रतिबंधित व्यापारिक कार्य-प्रणाली के विरूद्ध नई दिल्ली स्थित एम० आर० टी० पी० आयोग के कार्यालय में शिकायतें दर्ज करा सकता है ।

Target for Releasing Gas Connections

2948. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed any target for releasing gas connections to the consumers;

(b) what is the number of gas connections sanctioned in Gujarat during last 3 years;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are number of pending applications in Gujarat for cooking gas connections;

(d) whether Government propose to wipe out the huge backlog in Gujarat ; and

(e) what is the number of applications in